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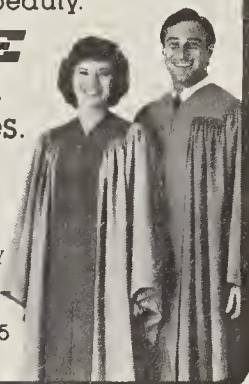
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8

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Christmas Is Always  
Christmas

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A Tradition Since  
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Horizon

*After Choosing New "Boots"***Nation Faces A Painful Adjustment**

Boy, do my feet hurt! I just got this new pair of boots, see, and they and my feet are still getting acquainted. Boots are being stretched and trained to accommodate feet; feet are being caloused and hardened to rub against boots.

The process takes a while, and meanwhile my feet hurt. I always put off getting new boots as long as I can for just this reason.

This whole country is about to pull on a new pair of boots, too. We've spent the past year or so in the boot store, narrowing it down to our final choice.

Ronald Reagan had his faults, but we sure got used to him after eight years. We came to know that he'd pinch a bit when stretched a certain way, but at least his flaws were familiar and reliable. He became as comfortable as, well, as an old pair of shoes.

But the Constitution says we've got to get new boots, and it's a good thing, too. You can get too comfortable, after all, too settled into the old pair to notice that the soles are getting thin and they're starting to leak a bit.

So we had to pick out a new president. And given the choice—along with my natural inclination—I'd rather not. I've been known to hang on to old boots even with the stitches pulling out and the puddles pouring in because, well, I figure better the devil you know.

You buy new boots or you elect a new president, and it's always a crap shoot. You never really know what you're going to get.

Oh, sure, we've had lots of time to inspect the goods. There's been plenty of opportunity to read up on our choices, to learn the strengths and weaknesses of each. . . .

And we've had plenty of ads promising increasing comfort for everyone.

But I hate to count on those claims. Candidates and boots are a lot alike: you don't know how things'll turn out until you make your

choice and get down to work—and then it's too late to change your mind. And I've never had a pair of boots that didn't pinch, rub and generally hurt like the devil the first few times I walked in them. I eventually got used to them all, of course—and there were a few I never wanted to replace.

The point is, the same thing will no doubt happen with the nation now that we've picked a new president.

Still, we've all been on this shopping trip before. We know how it works, and we know how it works out.

A year or so from now everything will be back to normal, and one of two things will be happening. Either we'll all be sitting around with our feet up, telling ourselves what a wonderful choice we made, or we'll be gritting our teeth and slogging along, wishing we'd done better but getting the job done anyway. At least, that's the way it always works when I get a new pair of boots.

My feet still hurt. But not as bad.

—John Vanvig, *Rural Electric News Service*

*I've never had a pair of boots that didn't pinch, rub and generally hurt like the devil the first few times I walked in them. I eventually got used to them all, of course—and there were a few I never wanted to replace.*

1988

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**Executive Vice President**

James M. Hubbard

**Editor**

Owen Bishop

**Contributing Editors**

Dan Cook

Randy Wheelless

**Editorial/Advertising Assistant**

Monica Russell

**Graphics Assistant**

Sandra Ward

**Design Consultant**

Julia Zeigler

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Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted.

Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform the editor at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.



## EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers,

Hearth and home. Family and friends. Feasts. Colorful lights glowing from the branches of a Christmas tree. Laughing children, tearing away bright ribbons as they open neatly wrapped gifts.

These are a few of the traditional images of the Yuletide season — images conveyed by our cover photo and by two features inside this issue of *Carolina Country*.

Those electric lights on the tree seem unremarkable today, but they've been part of Christmas celebrations for many rural families only as electricity has become available to them within the past half-century. Elsewhere, the practice has been around only since 1882. That's when the world's first electric Christmas tree was lighted in New York. The story of that tree appears on page 14.

Another perspective on the traditional Yule is offered by Carol Bessent Hayman of Beaufort in the piece on pages 12 and 13.

"Christmas is always Christmas," she says, even though we and our circumstances may change dramatically.

A major change in her family's circumstances helped her see that the season can be a joyous time even without the clamor of grandchildren or the warmth of family togetherness. She writes about her own experiences with the "empty nest" Christmas.

Mrs. Hayman, whose reminiscences about her Victorian home's porch appeared in our August issue, sprinkled her article with several quotes about the Christmas season. Here's the list of her sources, in case you're interested in reading them in full:

"Old Christmas," from *The Writings of Washington Irving: Let's Keep Christmas* by Katherine Marshall; *Christmas Is A Time For Giving* by Joan Walsh Anglund; *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens; *My Christmas Miracle* by Taylor Caldwell and the *Holy Bible*, King James Version.

\* \* \* \* \*

Early Christmas tree lights aren't involved in any way, but this month's "Grits" column, page 26, focuses on the development of various styles of early light bulbs from Edison's first working lamp. The piece is a follow-up on an earlier item regarding "antique" bulbs.

Speaking of follow-ups: Do you remember the painting of the ducks that ran on our cover last April? It was titled, "Just Walkin' In The Rain."

It's now available as a signed and numbered, limited edition print.

Martha Lang Burns of Whiteville, who painted the original watercolor, had the print prepared because of the large number of inquiries she received about prints from *Carolina Country* readers.

The print, which features an image size of 12" x 19" and paper size of 15" x 22½", is available for \$30.

Mrs. Burns is also offering a print titled "On The Wind," which depicts two sailboats being tossed about in rough waters.

The prints are available from the artist. Write to Mrs. Burns at 104 E. Frink St., Whiteville, NC 28472.

Best regards,

Owen Bishop

Carolina Country December 1988



## Federal Agency Cites Training Program For Tar Heel Technicians

A training program for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) technicians, sponsored by the North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation, has been honored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The program received an award under the agency's National Awards Program for Energy Innovation. The award cited the training program for its creative approach to promoting energy efficiency. The training is offered in a week-long skills enrichment course that teaches technicians better and faster methods of servicing equipment.

The course has been made available to technicians across the state for the past year through a partnership involving the Alternative Energy Corporation, the HVAC industry, the state's utilities and the state community college system. Montgomery Community College donated classroom and laboratory space, the HVAC industry provides equipment for use as teaching aids and the utilities helped provide training and recruit participants.

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), the power supply arm of the statewide organization of electric cooperatives, provided scholarships for some of the participants as part of its recruiting effort.

One session of the course was sponsored by NCEMC, offering instruction especially for technicians from the service territories of the state's Electric Membership Corporations.

C. Leon Neal, senior engineering project manager with the Alternative Energy Corporation, said the award recognizes "the work of all the people who have cooperated to bring new standards of excellence to the HVAC industry."

He said the course can significantly improve energy efficiency of HVAC equipment. Proper servicing, he added, has the potential to reduce energy use and, in the process, save North Carolina consumers more than \$1 million annually on energy bills.

## Death Claims A Former Editor of *Carolina Farmer*

A former editor of *The Carolina Farmer* (now *Carolina Country*) whose career included service in top posts with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) died recently in Washington following a brief illness.

Jerry L. Anderson, 61, a native of Flag Pond, TN, began his career in rural electrification as a groundman for French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, Marshall, in 1948.

In 1952, he became editor of *The Carolina Farmer*, which had just been acquired by the North Carolina statewide organization of electric cooperatives to serve as its monthly consumer magazine.

Anderson left the magazine in 1956 to join the Washington staff of the American Trucking Association.

Two years later, he moved to NRECA, where he established the association's newsletter, *Rural Electric Minuteman*. He served as acting manager of the association from October, 1965, until April, 1966, when he was named assistant general manager.

Anderson joined a Washington public relations and advertising agency in 1967 and was a partner in the firm at the time of his death.

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## MAILBOX

### **Carolina Country: "A Magazine For Everyone"**

Just a note to praise you on a great job! *Carolina Country* is a magazine for everyone. It has articles for everyone, no matter what their interests may be.

I love it all, but I have some favorites—recipes, gardening tips, articles about happenings, "Grits," "Pins and Needles" and really all the rest. I especially like the cover pictures.

*Carolina Country* is small in size but large in information on many subjects. I love it. Keep up the good work!

Mrs. M. D. Price  
Youngsville

### ***Humor: "A Stress Reliever"***

Regarding the September "Grits" column and comments on "Kickdog": Some people just can't allow humor into their lives, but humor itself is a stress reliever. (Perhaps it's the thought of something that *can't* be hurt—like in a cartoon.) Going outside and screaming also easily relieves stress.

Gary L. Edmisten  
Concord

### ***Magazine: "There's Good Reading In It"***

I look forward to *Carolina Country* every month. I read it from front to back. There's good reading in it. I've been reading *Carolina Country* 30 years or more. Keep it going!

Mrs. J. Herbert Caldwell  
Rt. 1, Carthage

### ***Column: "The Funniest Thing I've Read In Years"***

I was just dusting my living room and stopped to re-read "Grits" in the August issue. The article, "A Myth Is a Female Moth," is the funniest thing I've read in years. I plan to pass it along to my mother. I know she'll enjoy it as she was an English and history teacher.

I'm writing to compliment your publication. I enjoy receiving it every month.

Mary G. Friend  
Rt. 8, Lexington

## Three Tar Heel Women Cited For Service To Communities

Three North Carolina women have been presented with the 1988 Nancy Susan Reynolds Awards recognizing them for their efforts to improve the quality of life in their communities.

The awards, presented during ceremonies in Greensboro, went to Fannie M. Corbett of Wilson, for community change; Patricia J. Kepler of Elizabeth City, for personal service and Mildred Taylor of Charlotte, for advocacy.

Each winner will receive \$25,000—with \$20,000 of each award going to charities chosen by the honorees.

Director of the Wilson Community Improvement Organization, Fannie M. Corbett is a former welfare recipient who is now fighting to better conditions for the poor in her community.

She has started a day care center for low-income women, established a senior citizens center and worked to build housing for migrant workers.

Patricia Kepler operates a shelter for battered wives and the Albemarle Hopeline—a 24-hour crisis counseling line for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

Before she opened the shelter in 1983, Kepler took abused women into her home until they could find a place to stay.

A social worker and retired school psychologist, Mildred Taylor rallied her community to help save her neighborhood when it was being threatened by proposed road construction. Twenty years earlier, she had been displaced in a similar incident.

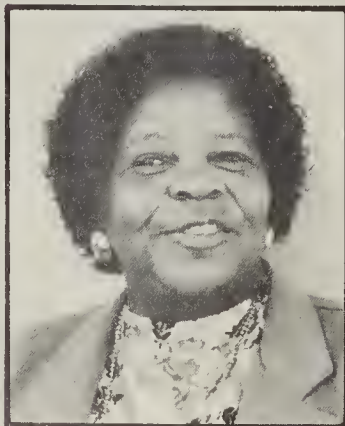
Her efforts resulted in a change in the road plans to bypass her neighborhood. Since then, she has formed a task force to plan neighborhood programs for youth summer jobs, food banks and senior citizens' projects.



KEPLER



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The awards, now in their third year, are sponsored by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and are given annually to Tar Heel residents who have worked without fanfare to improve conditions in their communities.





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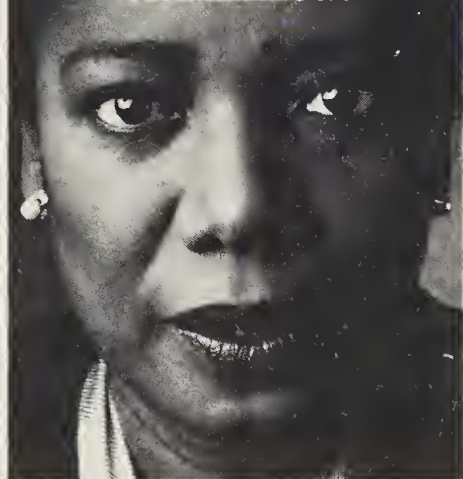
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## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE



### *Four Tar Heels Inducted By Livestock Hall of Fame*

Four men who have made significant contributions to livestock events in North Carolina were recently inducted into the Livestock Hall of Fame in Raleigh.

Inducted into the hall were: W. R. Lutz Jr. of Newton; J. Crawford Williams of Raleigh and Joseph B. (Bill) Powell of Colerain.

The Commissioner of Agriculture Meritorious Award, which recognizes those who have offered general support for livestock events, was presented to the family of the late J. Horton Doughton.

Lutz, who was inducted for his support of dairy events, began showing Jersey cattle at the N. C. State Fair about 51 years ago.

Williams, who was inducted for his support of horse events, has bred four world champion quarter horses and has served as president of the N. C. Horse Council.

Powell, who was honored for his support of swine events, is a noted breeder of Hampshires and has been instrumental in the promotion of swine events across the state.

Doughton was a strong advocate of legislation for the N. C. State Fair and worked to obtain funding for Dorton Arena and other facilities.

### *4 EMCs Elect 15 Directors*

Four North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations have elected three new members to their Boards of Directors and re-elected 12

incumbents to new terms during recent co-op annual meetings:

• **Brunswick EMC, Shallotte** — Re-elected were Bryan R. Smith of Star Route, Longwood; Hubert K.

Brittan of Rt. 1, Bolivia; Bobby Jordan of Rt. 2, Clarkton and Beasley Strickland of Rt. 2, Tabor City.

• **Rutherford**

**EMC, Forest City** — Re-elected were Fred T. Boyd of Marion; Robert B. Sisk of Rt. 5, Morganton and Virgil Shull of Rt. 3, Vale.

Elected for the first time was J. Dean Carpenter of Rt. 1, Dallas, who assumed the seat previously held by Paul H. Robinson of Rt. 1, Bessemer City. Robinson, who stepped down from the board after 20 years of service to the EMC, has been named a director emeritus.

• **Davidson EMC,**

**Lexington** — Re-elected were W. Max Walser of Rt. 14, Lexington; L. Wade Myers of Rt. 3, Thomasville and C. Richard Watts of Rt. 1, Walnut Cove.

• **Lumbee River**

**EMC, Red Springs** — Re-elected were Lacy L. Cummings of Rt. 1, Pembroke and Ronald Hammonds of Rt. 8, Lumberton. Elected for the first time were John G. Elebee of Raeford, who assumed the seat previously held by Alton V. Dudley of Raeford and James H. Dial of Rt. 1, Maxton, who assumed the seat previously held by Ward Clark Jr. of Rt. 2, Maxton.

### *Nursery-grown Plants Available*

A free list of sources where you can purchase nursery-grown wild flowers and native plants is now available from the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

To obtain a list, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the N.C. Botanical Garden, University of North Carolina, Box 3375 Totten Center, Chapel Hill, NC 27599.



### *Museum Exhibit Showcases Works By N. C. Potters*

The work of 20th century Tar Heel potters is now on permanent display at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh.

The exhibit, "Traditional North Carolina Pottery," showcases works from the three major pottery-producing regions in the state: the Piedmont

area around Seagrove, the mountain region around Asheville and the Catawba Valley region.

Literature on the pottery will be available to visitors. The museum's gift shop will also have pottery available for purchase.

For more information on the exhibit, contact the N.C. Museum of History at 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (919) 733-3894.

### *Three Artists Tapped For New Hall of Fame*

Three Tar Heel artists have been the first to be inducted into the newly created Western North Carolina Creative Arts Hall of Fame in Asheville.

Inducted were: Amanda Crowe of Cherokee, a wood and stone sculptor; John Ehle of Winston-Salem and Penland, author of 10 novels and Anthony Lord of Asheville, an architect who designed many Western North Carolina buildings.

Posthumously inducted in the hall of fame was writer Thomas Wolfe of Asheville (1900-1938), who is most famous for his classic novel, *Look Homeward Angel*.





## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

### **Exhibit To Feature First Family Fashions**

"First Family Fashions," an exhibit of fashions worn by the state's First Families through the years, will be featured at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh after the gubernatorial inauguration in January.

The exhibit, presented every four years, will showcase more than 25 gowns worn by the state's First Ladies—dating back to 1810.

Due to the fragile nature of the old garments, the exhibit will be on display only through March.

For more information on the exhibit, write the N.C. Museum of History, 109 E. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (919) 733-5722.



### **Crescent EMC Gets Financing For Expansion**

Crescent Electric Membership Corporation, Statesville, has received a \$6.3 million loan from the Rural Electrification Administration to help expand and upgrade its system.

The loan will be used to build about 185 miles of distribution lines, two miles of transmission lines and make other improvements. The project will enable the EMC to add about 3,600 new consumer-members within its service area.

The co-op has also obtained a \$2.7 million loan from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation to help finance the

improvements.

The EMC currently serves about 33,000 consumer-members in Gaston, Mecklenburg, Wilkes, Yadkin, Iredell, Alexander, Davie, Rowan, Cabarrus, Lincoln and Catawba Counties.

### **Capel Offers Decorating Guidebook**

Capel, Inc., a Troy rug manufacturer, is offering consumers a guidebook that features various applications for rugs in home decorating.

The 56-page, full-color booklet "is designed to help and inspire" homeowners in decorating with area rugs, said Charles (Bud) Young, Capel's national sales manager.

The area rug, he

added, is no longer considered something that simply goes on the floor. Rather, it is "an expression of personal taste, of individual style as well as of the home and surroundings in general."

For a copy of the booklet send \$10 to: Decorating Guide, Capel, Inc., Troy, NC 27371.

### **Six Honored For Contributions To N. C. Business**

Six distinguished North Carolina businessmen are the first inductees in the N.C. Business Hall of Fame.

Inducted were: William Henry Belk Sr., founder of Belk Brothers Company; Joseph McKinley Bryan, founder of the company that became

the Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Company; Thomas Henry Davis, founder of Piedmont Aviation, Inc.; James Buchanan Duke, founder of the company that became Duke Power Company; John Motley Morehead, founder of Union Carbide Corporation and Richard Joshua Reynolds, founder of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

The hall, created by Junior Achievement with the N.C. Citizens for Business and Industry, was established to honor North Carolinians who have made outstanding contributions to business in the state.

A permanent exhibit at Discovery Place in Charlotte will feature bas-relief portraits of the laureates.

### **New Book Lists Fairs, Festivals**

*Fairs and Festivals in the Southeast*, a book detailing dates and information on fairs throughout the South, is now available for mail-order purchases.

The book, covering 14 states and the District of Columbia, is priced at \$8, including postage and can be purchased by sending a check payable to the Arts Extension Ser-

vice, Division of Continuing Education, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

Credit card orders can be placed by calling (413) 545-2360.

### **Sloan To Head NCREA's Board**

R. B. Sloan Jr., manager of engineering and operations at Crescent Electric Membership Corporation, Statesville, has been named chairman of the board of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority (NCREA).

Sloan, who has served on the board since the fall of 1985, had been vice chairman. Richard L. Cox of Asheboro, an attorney, is the new vice chairman.

He assumed the NCREA board's top post after it was vacated due to the resignation of Bobby Pigg of Tarboro.

NCREA is a state agency that is guided by a five-member board. Its primary responsibility is to review loan applications for the state's electric and telephone cooperatives before they are submitted to the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington.

*Continued on page 10*





## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

### Farm Real Estate Loans Offered

The North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority (NCAFA) has introduced "Series I" Farm Real Estate loans, a loan program that's structured to meet the credit needs of both new and established farmers.

NCAFA was created by the N. C. General Assembly to provide affordable credit to Tar Heel farmers and agribusinesses unable to obtain credit from local sources at reasonable rates and terms.

"I am optimistic that these loans will benefit farmers in all types of

agricultural production across the state," said NCAFA Executive Director Frank Bordeaux.

NCAFA's "Series I" Farm Real Estate Loans can be obtained to buy, improve or enlarge farms. Purposes may include: construction, improvement or repair of farm homes and service buildings; improvement of on-farm water supplies; installation of pollution controls; soil and water conserva-

tion measures including irrigation systems and drainage improvements; refinancing debts; establishing or improving forests; providing for production of fish under controlled conditions and establishing non-farm enterprises that help farmers supplement their income.

The loans are made at an interest rate of prime plus 1.75% (currently 11.75%). The rate is variable and may change quarterly. The loans may be repaid over a period of up to 15 years. Maximum loan size is \$300,000.

For information on procedures for obtaining the loans write or call: North Carolina Agricultural Finance Authority, Suite 406, 19 West Hargett Street, Raleigh, NC 27601. Phone: (919) 733-0635.



### EMC Employee Cited For Role In Saving A Child

Tommy Martin, a staking engineer at Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, Forest City, has been cited by the cooperative for his role in saving the life of a choking child.

Martin received an award at the co-op's recent annual meeting for his quick response during the emergency.

He had completed a work assignment and was returning to the co-op's Cherryville district office when he encountered a Lincoln County school bus driver assisting the child, Jerry Stamey, a student at Love Memorial School in Lincolnton.

Martin immediately radioed for an ambulance to rush to the scene.

He later received a letter from the principal at Love Memorial School thanking him for his willingness to help in the emergency.

### Two Young Farmers Honored At Fair

Shelia F. Wright of Franklinville and Chuck Francis of Waynesville were honored as North Carolina's 1988 Young

Female and Young Male Farmer/Rancher during ceremonies at the N. C. State Fair in Raleigh.

The awards, co-sponsored by the N. C. Farm Bureau Federation and the N. C. Department of Agriculture, were presented by Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham.

Wright, and her husband Darrell, do most of the work on their Randolph County farm, which utilizes more than 200 acres for growing corn, oats, oat hay and orchard grass hay. The Wrights also raise cattle, chickens and hogs.

In addition, Shelia Wright is chairman of the Southern States' Farm Home Advisory Committee and conducts numerous community seminars on farm and animal safety.

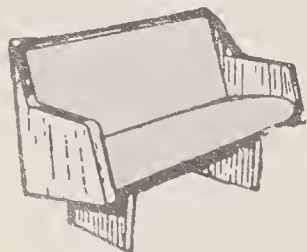
Francis is a partner in and manages an apple operation, which includes a 50-acre orchard, packing house and wholesale apple sales.

He uses a computerized record-keeping system to monitor expenses and income. Francis also manages a farm store.

He is also active in the Farm Bureau at county, state and national levels.

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*Call ULOCO First*

# Don't Dig Up Unwanted "Treasures"

Next time you set out to do some serious digging in your yard, you *could* stumble upon an ancient fossil, a valuable gemstone or the spoils of a long-forgotten bank robbery.

But, chances are good you'd be far more likely to dig your way into difficulties by breaking a power line, phone cable or natural gas line.

Those are just a few of the various types of "treasures" that might be buried beneath your lawn. As utilities have moved to put more of their facilities underground and out of sight, the earth's surface has often served as a natural camouflage for a hodge-podge of cables and conduits.

Many homeowners and builders have discovered that the hard way—by digging without checking first to determine whether vital services flow through the property in question.

How can you know beforehand what's down there?

By simply dialing 1-800-632-4949. The toll-free call will put you on the line with a representative of Utilities Locating Company (ULOCO), a firm that operates solely to keep North Carolinians informed about what's underground.

As the one-call locating company for underground electric, gas, water, sewer and phone lines, ULOCO began operation in 1978 with the cooperation of the state's utilities. It was established to aid the public in notifying utility companies before excavation work is done where there could be underground lines.

Since beginning its operation, the Greensboro-based ULOCO has significantly reduced underground utility damage—helping contractors, utility companies and consumers. Damaged underground lines can be dangerous and may require extensive repairs. Meanwhile, services are interrupted for many consumers while the repairs are being made.

A state law now requires individuals or organizations to call the ULOCO number at least 48 hours before doing any excavating work. ULOCO will then alert utility companies in the area, who will later contact those who plan to do the digging.

Carolyn Carter, who has been manager of ULOCO since its inception, says the company was

established to aid both utility companies and contractors.

"It's good for the utility companies that wish to protect their underground lines," she said. "But it helps the contractors, too. They make one call to us when they are about to dig—we then make up to 10 calls for them to area utility companies."

Doyle R. Stout, manager of engineering services at Randolph Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Asheboro, is one of those ULOCO calls when questions arise in the Randolph EMC service area.

"We get about 80 calls a month from ULOCO," Stout said. "Most I can answer from the office. But sometimes I have to visit the area."

Stout, who has served on the ULOCO Board of Directors for 10 years, is confident that the organization is serving a useful purpose. During that time, he also has seen lots of careless excavating and the problems it can cause.

"I've seen where someone has dug into a gas, phone or electric line—it can be costly," he said. "It can also be tragic."

With 107 utility members statewide, ULOCO has seen dramatic growth since its inception. Five years ago, the company received about 250 calls per day. Now that figure averages more than 1,200.

Carter says ULOCO's growth will continue.

"With the state law, and the good response we've had, we'll continue to see steady growth at ULOCO."

—Randy Wheelless



## 1-800-632-4949

## Before You Dig,

## Call ULOCO

*It's The Law!*





Washington Irving once wrote, "Of all the old festivals, that of Christmas awakens the strongest and most heartfelt associations."

More recently, Peter Marshall wrote, "I thank God for Christmas, would that it lasted all year. For on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day all the world is a better place, and men and women are more loveable. Love itself seeps into every heart, and miracles happen."

It is true. Memories and traditions combine to make the Yuletide season bright with promise and filled with anticipation and joy. We come to terms with it over and over again.

Steeped in Mama's turkey and sage and onion stuffing, Aunt Jane's coconut cake, and Uncle Bob's "home-made" egg nog, we find ourselves a miracle.

We are all children around the lighted tree of life.

One truth we learn as we grow: Christmas is always Christmas; we are changing with each year. Family ties bend, break and knot again in ways we never imagined. Children grow up, friends move away, active elderly parents remind us of our "little boy and girl" wishes, new family members need to be included in our shared joy.

The largess of the heart is never more needed or more evident than at Christmas.

I went from my parents' home to my husband's with no time to experience any Christmas but one of family and love. Our children—a daughter and a son—helped me recreate the warm Christmases I had known as a child.

I was unprepared, thirty years into marriage and motherhood, when Christmas arrived and neither child could come home for the holiday. It was sad news and brought a general climate of depression to our house. My husband, whose main contribution to Christmas activities up to that point was putting the lights on the tree, was



sympathetic but not undone.

We tend to build our lives on habits, little and big; those we perform and those others do. As I tried to find a bright spot in our first Christmas alone together in three decades, I realized how much of the joy, the spirit of Christmas is in the caring, sharing things we do for and share with others.

Joan Walsh Anglund tells us "Christmas is for giving." A batch of Christmas cookies may

take an hour to make, a few minutes to be eaten by hungry carolers; that special gift or card for a daughter or grandchild is hard to find, but the pleasure it gives cannot be measured; attending church services or visiting the sick and shut-ins takes time from busy schedules, but the meaning of Christmas is clearer.

We who face Christmas with a longing for "how it used to be" may be missing what it *can* be. Christmas does not have to be invented; it only has to be enjoyed.

As Peter Marshall put it "Isn't it wonderful to think that nothing can really harm the joy of Christmas?"

The tree, the gifts, the food and special treats are traditional symbols. Christmas is not a place. It is *surprise!* God showed that when he chose a stable in the small town of Bethlehem. It will happen anywhere, for everyone, and most of all for people who love other people and share that love.

I learned these things as I looked for a fresh approach to the season as we prepared for our first "empty nest" Christmas. I found that decorating does not have to mean a "cellar to attic" display. It can be a lighted tree, a creche, candles on the table, a wreath of green and holly on the door and Santa taped to the refrigerator.

For me, music is also an important part of Christmas. I enjoy the radio, the TV musical specials, church cantatas and taped music. A simple

## Christmas Is Always Christmas



*The traditional symbols of the season — the stable in Bethlehem, the giving of gifts, the lighted tree, the inspiring music — can fill your heart to overflowing — even in an "empty nest."*







pleasure is playing the old carols on my organ and hearing my husband play the piano or his recently mastered electronic keyboard. Music can be satisfying to one person or fill the empty spaces of thousands.

Communication is never more appreciated than during the holidays. Christmas cards, letters, phone calls, packages bring loved ones who are far away closer, letting them know we care and telling us they are thinking of us. Time that can't be spent with our own children or grandchildren can be used to make a neighbor's child, a friend who is alone, or an elderly parent feel "special." We are all children at Christmas.

On our first "empty nest" Christmas I treated my husband to a visit to the toy department of a local store. We each chose a favorite toy and spent one evening on the living room floor assembling them—a large rescue helicopter for him, and a mini-bus with tiny people for me. It was great fun and such "toy gifts" have become a part of our changing tradition at Christmas.

Charles Dickens said, "It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmastime."

We go to Christmas Eve Service at church. I am deeply moved by the beauty of the candlelit, poinsettia banked church, and never is the desire to sing so great as then. My favorite carol, and one that says Christmas no matter when you hear it, is "Silent Night." After church we invite family members and a few friends to our home for coffee, sandwiches and cake. Everyone gets a gift and there is always music and the sharing of stories of other Christmases. "Remember the Christmas when" starts lots of sentences.

On Christmas Day—without grandchildren—we may sleep past seven a.m. but we always begin with "Merry Christmas" to each other. We open our stockings and share silly gifts and notes, small things like pens, note pads and colorful soap or a kitchen gadget. Sometimes we call my mother, who is 81, to wish her greetings. Breakfast over, we like to walk about wishing everyone "Merry Christmas!" It is the most beautiful and fitting greeting at Christmas.

"Turkey-for-two" may not appeal, so I keep an open mind. I like serving ham which can be used for evening sandwiches, next week's salad and, on the first cold day, a pot of good home-made soup.

On a pretty Christmas Day, we like to walk with our dog—or watch the beautiful holiday specials on public television. We may look at the VCR movie "It's a Wonderful Life" with Jimmy Stewart (my husband's favorite) or "Little Women" with Katherine Hepburn (mine!). These things reinforce values we all hold dear, and we are not embarrassed to shed tears or rejoice as a familiar plot unfolds.

We open gifts one at a time, savoring each moment and laughing at everything. I appreciate each lovely gift but the handmade crafts and hand picked ones with letters from my daughter are especially dear to me. While I visit with friends on the telephone, my husband may take a nap.

Christmas is always a busy time. It is nice to sit and rest and watch the tree lights. At night we get telephone calls from the children—"Merry Christmas. We've been trying to get through—we miss you. How did your day go? Susie loves her new skates and Richard won't take off his new red sweater!"

Later, we have a sandwich and milk and hold hands. Our Christmas Day, together or apart, always ends the same way—my husband reads the Christmas story as told in the beautiful words of Luke: "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger."

Empty nest? Yes, this year. But empty hearts? No indeed. We are filled to overflowing with the gifts of Christmas: joy, peace and love. We are not alone.

"That," says Taylor Caldwell, "is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses."

—Carol Bessent Hayman

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## *Lighted By Utility Executive*

# Electric Yule Tree: A Tradition Since 1882

When you celebrate the Yuletide season amid the glow of a lighted Christmas tree, you'll be carrying on a holiday tradition that began in New York more than 100 years ago—a custom that started out as a safety demonstration.

The world's first electric Christmas tree was lighted in 1882 in the home of Edward Johnson, an electric company executive, who displayed the electric tree to prove that the lights wouldn't ignite the tree into flames.

Johnson, who was one of Thomas Edison's chief assistants in his Menlo Park days, served as director of the Edison Illuminating Electric Company.

Until he broke with previous traditions, Christmas trees in homes featured lighted wax candles, which had caused a number of tragic fires over the years.

Johnson, convinced that electric candles would be safer, planned the demonstration and alerted the New York newspapers.

"Electric trees will prove to be far less dangerous than wax candle parlor trees," he said in a letter to all the newspapers in early December, 1882.

"I hope you will have a representative of your fine newspaper on hand when I light the world's first electric Christmas tree in my home two days before Christmas."

Alas, the lighting of the first electric tree was totally ignored by the New York press. However, a reporter from the old *Detroit Post and Tribune* was in New York at the time, and he sent a description of the historic tree to his newspaper.

Only his last name is known. It was "Croffut." He wrote: "Last evening I walked over beyond Fifth Avenue

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*When an associate of Thomas Edison lighted the world's first electric*

*Christmas tree in New York, the event was ignored by the local newspapers.*

*But, a Detroit newsman reported that the tree presented "a most uncanny aspect."*

---

and called at the residence of Edward H. Johnson of Edison's electric light company. There, at the rear of the beautiful parlor, was a large Christmas tree presenting a most picturesque and uncanny aspect. It was brilliantly lighted with many colored globes as large as an English walnut, and was turning some six times a minute on a little pine box. There were 80 lights in all, encased in those dainty glass eggs, and about equally divided between blue, white and red.

"As the tree turned, the colors alternated, all the lamps going out and being relit at every revolution. The result was a continuous twinkling of dancing colors—red, white, blue, white, red, blue—all the evening, like the tree laden with lambent splendour that sparkles above the fountain in Aladdin's palace.

"I need not tell you that the scintillating evergreen was a pretty sight—one can hardly imagine anything prettier. The ceiling was crossed obliquely with two wires on which hung 28 more of the tiny lights; and all the lights and the goblins and the fantastic tree itself with its starry fruit, were kept going by the slight electric current brought from the main office on a filmy wire. The tree was kept revolving by a little hidden crank below the floor which was turned by electricity."

Croffut concluded: "It was a superb exhibition."

It would cost a small fortune to duplicate the first electric tree today. The bulbs were hand blown and would sell for at least \$2,000 if duplicated today. All of the wiring was hand made. The bulbs and wiring had to be tested individually before the entire tree was lighted in all its glory.



*The world's first Christmas tree featuring electric lights. Photo courtesy of Edison National Historic Site.*





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## HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

Autumn has given way to winter. Cooler weather reminds us to check out our firewood supply and make ready for the merry holiday season. Outdoor activities that keep gardeners busy include planting bare-root and balled-and-burlapped trees and shrubs of all kinds, unless you live at the highest altitudes of the mountains where planting is best done in the spring.

Collect colorful berries, pine cones, seed pods and green foliages for seasonal decorations. Such projects add much pleasure to holiday festivities.

### ***Pines in the Landscape***

Pine trees are of special interest during winter months and can be planted now. Pines are difficult to transplant as large specimens. The rate of success is much higher when small trees are planted. Young ones are available at garden centers where they are sold as container-grown plants. These grow rapidly if given adequate water and fertilizer.

Choose from many different kinds of

pines—loblolly, slash, shortleaf, white and longleaf—depending on which grow best in your locality.

### ***Upon Pruning Narrow-leaf Evergreens***

"Needle-leaf" or narrow-leaf evergreens such as juniper, pine, hemlock and yew re-

quire very careful pruning. These evergreens usually grow slowly and can't recover from overzealous or improper cuts.

Prune narrow-leaf evergreens lightly so as to maintain and accentuate their natural form and shape. Be careful not to cut back

beyond the needle-bearing side branches or these branches will die. As you examine a limb, you'll observe needle-bearing side branches. Be careful not to cut back beyond these branches or they will die. You'll want to make cuts so they are hidden by adjacent branches.



### ***Poinsettias: The Most Popular Yule Plants***

The poinsettia is today's favorite Christmas plant. Although plants with red bracts are by far the most popular, many new varieties are available with pink, peach or cream-colored bracts. Some have bracts of variegated color.

Supply poinsettias with ample moisture but do not over-water. Either extreme will cause leaves to shed. In addition, excess water rots the roots and shortens the life of poinsettias.

### ***Here's How To Use Them As Cut Flowers***

Some folks prefer their poinsettias as pot plants during the holidays. Others like to mix them with seasonal greens to make arrangements. If you'd like to use them as cut flowers, it is important that they be "tempered" before and after cutting from the plant.

To get the most life from a cut poinsettia, scratch the bark with a sharp knife. Do this at three or four places on the stem about 24 hours before cutting. Remove the lower leaves from the stem. The stem will "bleed milk" where scratched and where leaves are removed.

After 24 hours the wounds will have healed. Cut the flower stem and singe the cut end in the flame of a candle. The poinsettia then is ready to be used in an arrangement along with such greenery as holly, mistletoe, mahonia, magnolia, boxwood, pine, cedar, osmanthus or cleyera.

### ***Midwinter Spraying***

All fruit trees and several species of ornamentals need a midwinter spraying.

It's especially important that all forms of peaches, plums, lilacs and flowering almonds get a dormant oil spray. Miscible and emulsifiable oil sprays are good for control of scale insects in winter. Never apply when temperature is below 40 degrees F. or when freezing temperatures are forecast for the first night after spraying.

Oil sprays may be applied any time before buds swell in the spring, depending upon temperatures. Walnuts, maples, beeches and flowering cherries should never be sprayed with oil sprays. These trees are easily damaged by oil.

### ***Weed-out "Weed" Trees and Shrubs***

"Weed" trees and shrubs are sometimes a serious menace to shrub plantings. They are often found in hedges and shrubbery borders. Among them are seedling elm, hackberry, wild cherry, plum, ligustrum, mulberry and oak trees. Such plants often





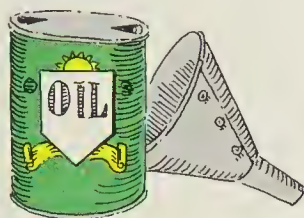
# HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

By Hank Smith

grow unnoticed until they have crowded valuable shrubs. Pull or dig such "weed" trees and shrubs from all plantings.

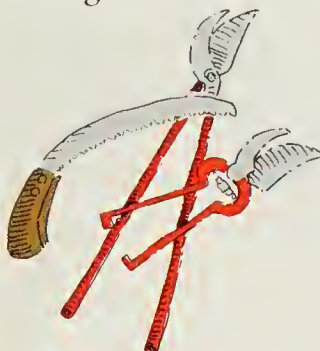
## Make Time For These Chores

- Clean up garden power tools before you store them away for winter.



- If you have power tools that run on an oil and gas mixture, drain the fuel from the tank and run the engine until it uses up all fuel in the carburetor.

- Begin winter project of pruning fruit trees and grape vines, to be accomplished during winter months.



- Deep-feed dormant deciduous trees by applying fertilizer around trees' drip line.
- Have soil test made to determine lime/fertilizer needs of lawn.
- Clean up and

burn all twigs and litter found under pecan trees to prevent overwintering of twig girdler insect.

- Work organic matter such as compost, leaves or peat into soil of garden areas.



- Can Santa find the chimney at a home of overgrown shrubs?

## Sweet Peas Need A "Frame" To Cling To

Early-flowering sweet peas should be planted in the fall or winter for a bonus in flowering next spring. Plant along a garden fence, giving them a frame on which to cling.

Dig a trench about twelve inches deep. Place a two- to four-inch layer of manure in the bottom. Relatively fresh manure may be used. Cover manure with one to two inches of top soil. Plant seed six to eight inches deep. As plants grow, pull soil into the trench, never covering the growing tips of plants. During severe cold spells, cover plants with pine straw or hay.

## Clean Hedge, Fence Rows

Many weeds are host to both insects and diseases that attack various ornamental and vegetable plants. Weeds can serve as a means of carrying these troubles from one year to the next. Fence rows, hedge rows and other non-cultivated areas in the yard should be cleaned up and kept clean.

## Spring-Flowering Bulbs Still Need Planting? It's Time To Get At It!



If you haven't planted those spring-flowering bulbs, better get at it. Satisfaction is practically guaranteed when quality bulbs are used.

Pansy plants and perennial candytuft set among the bulbs will produce a fine effect and won't harm the bulbs a bit.

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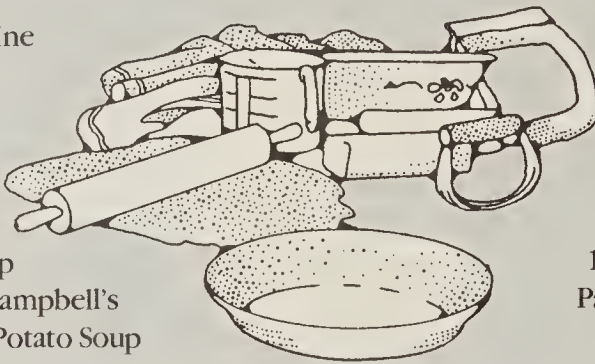


## COUNTRY KITCHEN

### Vegetable Turkey Pot Pie

*Submitted by Melvin F. Fowler, Zebulon*

- 1 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1/2 C. chopped onion
- 1/2 Tsp. dried marjoram leaves, crushed
- 1 can (19 ounces) Campbell's Home Cookin' Vegetable Soup
- 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) Campbell's Condensed Cream of Potato Soup



- 3 C. cubed cooked turkey, chicken or beef
- 1/3 C. cooked spinach or greens
- 1/8 Tsp. pepper
- Pastry for 1-crust pie

In 2-quart saucepan over medium heat, in hot butter, cook onion with marjoram until tender. Add soups, turkey, spinach and pepper. Heat through. Preheat oven to 400°F. On floured surface, roll pastry 1 inch larger all around than 1 1/2-quart casserole and cut into strips of equal width. Pour hot soup mixture into casserole. Crisscross pastry strips over filling to form a lattice top. Fasten ends to edge of casserole. Crimp edge. Bake 25 minutes or until crust is golden brown. (Serves 6).

### Would You Like To Share Your Recipes?

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to:  
*Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611.

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## WASHINGTON SCENE

### *Cooler Heads Prevailed*

# Disagreements Marked The 100th Congress

The 100th Congress, which ended its work in October, was the first session since President Reagan took office to involve Democratic control of both houses.

Given that fact, it might have been expected that there would have been sharp disagreements between Congress and the White House—and early in the session it appeared that might be the case.

Reagan vetoed two key bills passed by Congress—the Clean Water Act and the Highway Act—and the Democratic Congress, with some Republican help, promptly voted to override his vetoes.

But after that brief flurry, observers say, cooler heads prevailed and things moved along more smoothly, with the administration and Congressional leaders cooperating on legislation that could be supported at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

During the session, a great deal of meaningful legislation came from the Capitol. Among the issues taken up and resolved, after a fashion, were trade, welfare, catastrophic insurance and appropriations for the 13 departments of the government—the latter a feat that hadn't been accomplished in recent years.

Those appropriations bills were undoubtedly helped along by Reagan, who announced in his State of the Union speech in January that he would sign no more catch-all “continuing resolutions” of the sort that Congress had been passing, lumping together money bills for several departments. The President had to sign these omnibus bills just to keep the national government from shutting down.

No more, said Reagan. Congress got the message and somehow managed to get all 13 appropriations bills passed and ready for the President's signature by Oct. 31. He signed them all, allowing the government to con-

tinue to operate for the next 12 months.

One surprise to most observers was that at long last Congress did something about changing the welfare system. States will be required in the future to offer training for those on welfare to prepare them for jobs that could turn them into productive citizens. It also requires that one member of a two-parent welfare family work 16 hours a week without pay, an action backed strongly by the administration and the conservatives in Congress.

Supporters of the bill said it had become necessary to take some action because of the increased numbers of people who are living in poverty, which includes one-fifth of the nation's children.

Given the differences between Reagan and the Democrats, one major newspaper called the act a “great ideological compromise.”

Indeed, compromise between Reagan and the Congressional Democrats seemed to characterize much of the business transacted by the 100th Congress of 1987-88.

In this spirit, legislation was passed and signed to give farmers drought relief, to outlaw plastic guns that can be smuggled through metal detectors, increase penalties for child pornographers and to start closing outmoded military bases. The latter could save the government \$5 billion a year.

The compromise didn't always come easily.

Reagan never really wanted the Trade Bill, which was designed to give American products more acceptance in foreign markets, where they had been denied access even as products from abroad have seized larger shares in the American economy.

Reagan vetoed the bill at first, saying he objected to a provision that would require companies to give workers a 60-day notice before closing a plant or factory. Congress removed that from the bill, passed the revised version and the President reluctantly signed it.

Then Congress passed the plant closing bill as a separate law, sent it to the White House and Reagan allowed it to become law without his signature.

On defense, Reagan had more success. He vetoed two defense measures because he said they underfunded the Star Wars project and Congress grudgingly restored the funds for SDI research.

And Congress, in this election year, tried to get tough on drugs. It passed the toughest drug bill in history, calling for the death penalty for killers in drug-related crimes and severely punishing users. Possession of drugs, even a marijuana cigarette, could bring a \$10,000 fine.

With money in short supply, only a portion of the \$2.8 billion measure was funded—but there were promises that additional funds would be found when the 101st Congress meets in January.

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*The new "catastrophic" medical care program under Medicare will begin Jan. 1, 1989, as a result of Congressional action on Public Law 100-360—the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988.*

*Changes required by the measure will bring the biggest expansion of Medicare in its 23-year history. But will this landmark legislation make a real difference for the millions of Americans and others in the Medicare program?*

*This month's column, which examines the new law in detail, points out that the new program's primary goal is to reduce financial risk for enrollees who might face huge hospital or physicians' bills due to acute illness. On first appraisal, it seems to be an important step in that direction.*

## Medicare's Catastrophic Coverage Program Reduces Financial Burdens Of Acute Illness

Medicare's new "catastrophic" coverage program is about to begin, but exactly what will it do and when will it impact enrollees?

A new leaflet from the Department of Health and Human Services says Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 will improve protection for Medicare's "32 million elderly and disabled beneficiaries from 'catastrophic' hospital, doctor and prescription drug bills."

Unlimited hospital coverage is provided as of Jan. 1 after the patient pays a single deductible, now estimated at \$564. Also on Jan. 1 acute care in skilled nursing homes will be covered for up to 150 days each year. In the past, that coverage was limited to 100 days.

Medicaid, the separate program for lower-income people, will begin paying Medicare deductibles, premiums and co-insurance for people with incomes up to 85 percent of the federal poverty level. This will gradually rise to 100 percent in 1992.

Sept. 30, 1989, will be another significant date. At that time spouses of persons in nursing homes under Medicaid may keep \$786 a month in income and either half of the couple's total assets or \$12,000, whichever is greater. The monthly income allowance will rise annually until the figure reaches \$950 in 1992.

What about doctor bills? On Jan. 1, 1990, the maximum you would have to pay for professional services of a physician (Part B of Medicare, if carried) will become \$1,370 a year—another deductible. On the same date



annual coverage for home health services will increase from 15 days to 38 days. Medicare will pay for health aids to provide up to 80 hours of respite care for relatives attending sick people at home.

Medicare Part B coverage for 1989 will remain unchanged.

Another landmark date comes Jan. 1, 1991, when Medicare will begin paying up to 50 percent of prescription drug costs exceeding \$600 a year. This outpatient

prescription percentage will rise to 60 percent in 1992 and to 80 percent in 1993.

This sounds like an impressive list of benefits—and it is. But it's not quite the whole story. When Congress enacted the new law, backers described it as "self-sustaining," which means the beneficiaries pay the entire cost.

One point to remember as you check off the coverages provided: the "unlimited hospital coverage" will apply only to Medicare-approved charges. In the past, approved charges under the program have often been far less than a doctor or hospital typically charges. The patient or other hospital insurance would pay the difference.

There are also some clearly defined charges associated with the new legislation. During 1988 and previous years Part A (hospital) has been without a fee, while Part B (doctors) cost \$24.80 a month. Starting Jan. 1, 1989, Part B is expected to rise about four dollars a month, to \$28.80. By 1993 this cost is expected to be about \$25 a month for each enrollee.

Cost of the "catastrophic" coverage will, for many people, be much more. Since the program



is compulsory for all enrolled in Medicare, the costs will apply across the board. All enrollees will pay a \$48 basic premium, which will amount to \$96 for couples. Individuals with taxable income may pay much more, based on a "supplemental premium" of \$22.50 for each \$150 of federal income tax due.

The maximum supplemental premium will be \$800 per person in 1989 (to be paid along with your federal income tax) or \$1,600 for a couple filing jointly and receiving Medicare coverage. These figures will rise to \$850 per person and \$1,700 per couple in 1990, to \$900 and \$1,800 in 1991, to \$950 and \$1,900 in 1992 and to \$1,050 per person, \$2,100 per couple in 1993.

So the increasing benefits bring a larger "price tag" as they grow. Individuals or couples who have had only Part A may now want to add the still-optional Part B to cover their doctor bills, since the entire rate structure is going up. But the amount you would pay for Part B would be much less than the same coverage provided by commercial hospital insurance. An open period for enrolling is scheduled each year from January through March. To enroll, contact your nearest Social Security office.

If you have other hospital insurance to bolster your Medicare coverage, you need to know that new standards for underwriters providing such coverage are mandated under the law. By Jan. 1, 1989, such companies will be required to contact their policy-holders and explain how their coverage supplements the new Medicare program.

For women 65 and over, Medicare will cover a mammography test every other year, or each year for high-risk cases. This will take effect Jan. 1, 1990, for women who have Part B—and the "reasonable charge" would be limited to \$50. If the cost runs over \$50, the patient or other insurance must pay the difference.

It should be emphasized that Medicare, even under the "catastrophic coverage," will pay for hospital and other expenses only when approved. For hospital care, for example, your physician must order hospital care for your illness or injury. You must require care that can be provided only in a hospital. And the hospital must be participating in Medicare. (Fortunately, most North Carolina hospitals do participate.)

In addition, the hospital's Utilization Review Committee or Peer Review Organization must approve your stay and treatment. Without this approval, there will be no payment. (It should be obvious that a patient must also pay the extra charges for a private room unless it's medically necessary, and for a private duty nurse, television, radio, telephone or similar "luxury" items.)

Summing up, it should be said that the new Medicare coverage and its related Medicaid aspects are doubtless a great boon to most older Americans who will be affected. But some people who have read all the terms and provisions feel that it's a mixed blessing.

One North Carolina couple, who have current Medicare coverage and also an excellent program of separate hospital coverage, already have virtually every benefit the new legislation will bring. They also have a small business. Their reaction: "As far as we're concerned, it means we will continue to have what we have had for several years. But we'll be paying an extra \$1,600 a year starting with our 1989 tax return."

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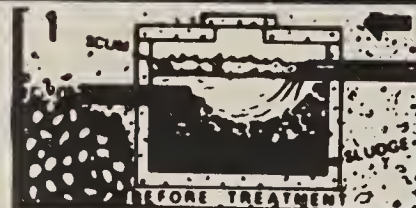
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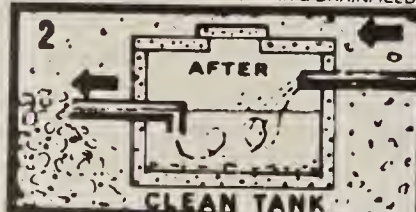
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North Carolinians who are deaf, mentally retarded or suffering from other developmental disabilities have a chance to affect the state and federal laws covering them by participating in a statewide survey.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities will conduct the survey beginning in January.

But organizers are now identifying people to be interviewed, said Laura Seff, director of administrative services at the Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning at the UNC School of Medicine.

Organizers are asking North Carolina residents with a severe, chronic disability that began before they were age 22 to call a toll-free number, Seff said. Callers will receive a letter describing the project, a consent form and a postage-paid return envelope. From that group of respondents, about 500 people will



## Survey Open To Tar Heels With Disabilities

be chosen for personal interviews.

Participants will be asked in the interviews how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with services now being provided by state agencies that are federally funded to serve people with developmental disabilities.

Seff said survey results would be reported to state officials and the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services as part of an effort to improve services for people with developmental disabilities. Similar surveys are being conducted in the other 49 states as part of an evaluation mandated by Congress.

To receive information and the form, residents should call the toll-free number 1-800-942-5437 between 10 a.m. and noon on Thursdays and between 2 and 4 p.m. on Fridays. Another number, (919) 966-6962, also is available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Others who know someone who might participate also are asked to call.

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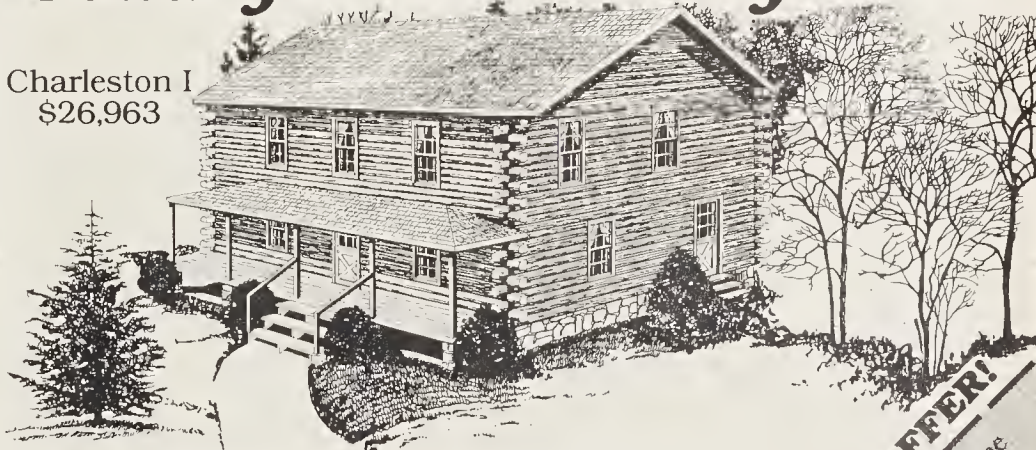
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# Two-Century Farms, Towns Honored

Longview Farm in Northhampton County was 67 years old and the Town of Bath was in its 82nd year when the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. Both the farm and the town were among those recognized recently at a Farm-City Week program focusing on family farms and towns that pre-date the Constitution.

Peter Myers, deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and R. T. Forrest, chairman of the N. C. Food and Agricultural Council, presented plaques and "Bicentennial Farm" signs to William Gray Long of Longview Farms and the owners of 30 other farms on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Chester D. Black, director of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, coordinating agency for Farm-City Week, presented plaques to Mayor James Richardson of Bath and representatives of 32 other Tar Heel towns that are at least 200 years old.

Bath, now a town of around 250 people, was chartered in 1705. The Long farm dates from 1720. The Long farm and others recognized have all been in the same families for more than 200 years.

The presentations were part of the state's Farm-City Week kickoff luncheon at McKimmon Center on the North Carolina State University campus.

Farm-City Week, Nov. 18-24, is observed annually the week before Thanksgiving to recognize the achievements of farmers and the cooperation between rural and city residents in the food production and distribution system.

As a tie-in with the 200th anniversary of the Constitution that was observed last year, USDA and Farm-City Week planners sought to identify two-century towns and family farms as a focus for the 1988 observance.

Some of the signers of the Constitution hadn't been born in 1720, when the eighth great grandfather of William Gray Long, Robin Jones, purchased the land for what is now Longview Farms. The farm has been kept in the Jones-Gray-Long family since that time. Its current owner operates the farm with his daughter, Jane, and son-in-law, Joe Brown. They grow cotton, peanuts, soybeans and grain.

All North Carolina school children learn in their first brush with history that Bath is the oldest Tar Heel town, but far fewer learn which towns were chartered next. Edenton was chartered in 1720. Beaufort and New Bern were both chartered in 1723.

The only farm that comes close to Long's for the number of years in the same family is that of Mrs. Emily M. Averitte, Rt. 1, Tar Heel, in Bladen County. Her Walnut Grove Farm dates back to 1735 when the land was granted to Thomas Robeson Sr.

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Other cities chartered 200 or more years ago: Wadesboro (1783); Washington (1782); Windsor (1766); Elizabethtown (1773); Morganton (1784); Pittsboro (1785); Brunswick (1745); Fayetteville (1762); Tarboro (1760); Louisburg (1779); Halifax (1757); Murfreesboro (1786); Winton (1784); Smithfield (1777); Trenton (1784); Kinston (1762); Williamston (1779); Charlotte (1766); Nashville (1784); Wilmington (1739); Hillsborough (1759); Hertford (1758); Greenville (1771); Rockingham (1784); Lumberton (1788); Salisbury (1770); Rutherfordton (1787); Lincolnton (1785).

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Other farm owners recognized, listed by counties, were:

**Brunswick:**

David and Kelly Holden (1756)

**Cumberland:**

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Elliot  
and Sons (1788)

**Davidson:**

Jimmie B. Sink (1763)  
John E. Sink Jr. (1763)  
Edward and Mildred Hill (1773)

**Duplin:**

Hubert and Violette Phillips  
(1777)  
Jimmy and JoAnn Stroud (1784)  
Ila Marie Kornegay Harper  
(1742)  
Marilynn Kornegay Hroza (1742)  
David O. Byrd (1753)  
Calvin R. Mercer (1767)  
Ada Mercer Dunn (1767)

**Franklin:**

Bennett H. Perry Jr. (1763)

**Gaston:**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard D.  
Rhyne (1773)

**Guilford:**

Emily Ruth Ballinger (1751)  
Max D. Ballinger (1751)

**Northampton:**

Mrs. Sarah J. Culpepper (1779)  
Rebecca G. Sumner (1760)  
Mary G. Little (1760)  
Mrs. Seth L. Daughtry (1787)  
Luther S. Daughtry (1787)

**Person:**

Maurice B. Robertson (1785)

**Robeson:**

James R. Oliver (1771)  
Paul S. Oliver Jr. (1771)  
Charles T. Smith and Robert  
Franklin Doares Jr. (1772)

**Rowan:**

Robert Knox Jr. (1758)  
David C. Knox (1758)

**Scotland:**

Elizabeth Ann Gibson Lewis  
(1787)  
T. G. Gibson III and  
T. G. Gibson IV (1786)





## “Sewing Them In” Once Helped To Keep Folks Snug In Cold Weather

Fifty years or so ago, when rural life was really different from that in the city, a lot of rural people had their own special ways of keeping warm.

The houses had many fireplaces, even in bedrooms—and many had those fancy metal “circulators,” which often burned kerosene.

The kitchen, with a big black wood stove, was often the warmest room in the place. Cooking went on three times a day.

For extra protection, some families believed in the practice of “sewing them in” for the chilly months.

This meant taking leftover flour or sugar sacks, washing them well, and then sewing them in a sort of cocoon that covered the torso from armpits to where the legs join. Layer after layer would be stitched into place and only then would other garments be put on.

When it was time for a bath, often in that big galvanized tub on the kitchen floor, with hot water poured from a kettle to temper the cold water, the process was simply reversed. Then when the boy or girl was squeaky clean, it was time to sew them in again.

This may sound strange in the 1980s, when people everywhere have hot running water, efficient heating and other contemporary comforts. But, being sewn in was one way to stay snug and warm when the weather got “cold enough to butcher hogs.”

—Frank Jeter Jr.

## Sill Casings Can Block Out Cold Winter Drafts

*Reprinted from Hali-facts, the consumer newsletter of Halifax Electric Membership Corporation, Enfield.*

### Sill Casings

Cold weather will soon be here and draft stoppers, or sill casings, will help to keep air from seeping in from around doors and windows. You can make them yourself in any color and fabric so they'll match your home's decor.

### Materials

Strips of fabric 8" wide and 2" longer than your door or windowsill. Matching thread. Sewing needle or stapler. Staples can be used if you're in a hurry and/or don't know how to sew. Stuffing (You can make your own out of almost anything ... read on!)

### Tools

Scissors, ruler, pencil, chalk, or crayon.

### Directions

1. Fold the strip in half, lengthwise, with the brighter side or design facing in.
2. With the folded strip laying flat on a table, measure 1/2" all the way around the cut edge and mark.
3. Leaving one end open, sew or staple the sides of the strip together along the markings. Staples should be placed about 1/4" apart.
4. Turn your tube inside out, placing the seam inside. Then stuff the casing. Leave an inch of fabric at the end for closing. The casing should not be stuffed too tightly.
5. Stuffing can be made from old socks or stockings, old clothing cut into small strips, or shredded newspaper. You can also buy stuffing in a bag at the dime store.
6. Fold the fabric at the end of the casing over 1/2" and then over again another 1/2". Sew or staple the end in place.
7. Casings may be placed along door and windowsills or across the upper latch of double hung windows when they are closed.





# "They Don't Make Them Like They Used To!"

Last June, we ran an item on this page about a Bakersville woman who had replaced a 75-watt Champion bulb that had been in use for more than 50 years.

The item prompted a couple of readers to write about their own experiences with "antique" light bulbs.

Dorothy Ripley of Rt. 3, Hayesville, said that when she and her husband bought a house in Cleveland, OH, in 1941, they found two National Mazda bulbs. Each was a long clear bulb with a tip on the end.

"Those bulbs were lighted at least once a day until 1961, when we moved to North Carolina. I have them and they still light. I'd be interested in know-

ing how old these bulbs are. They don't make them like they used to!"

Meanwhile, Mrs. Roger Whitley Jr. of Tarboro wrote about a bulb she has that was in her husband's grandfather's home in Tarboro in 1939. The house had been built in 1902, but she has no idea how old the bulb may be.

In an attempt to determine how old these bulbs are, we referred the inquiries to specialists with the General Electric Company's Lamp Products Division in Cleveland.

Since Mrs. Whitley's note was accompanied by a photo of her bulb, a GE expert was able to say that it featured a design that would have been

made after 1921.

"It is almost impossible to date lamps by looking at the features," said GE's J. Robert Moody. "Many lamps were made with older features after the new ones were introduced."

He pointed out that a lamp's bulb, filament and base can offer clues to when it was made.

Moody said early lamps had horseshoe shaped carbon filaments until 1906, when the first metal filaments were introduced. The drawn tungsten filament was introduced in 1911, with the coiled tungsten filament coming onto the scene in 1913.

The bulbs featured an "S" shape until 1915, when the "PS" and "A" shape bulbs were introduced. The bulb without a tip was first made in 1919. Inside-frosted bulbs were introduced in 1925.

"Early lamps had wood bases and the Edison Screw Base (common household base) was introduced about 1890," Moody added.

If you're interested in doing your own research on old bulbs, Moody suggested two

books that would be helpful as references: *A Century of Light* by James A. Cox, The Benjamin Co., Inc., 485 Madison Ave., New York, NY, 1979 and *Guide for Antique Bulb Collecting* by Eugene H. Brown,

C&E Printing, Bucklin, Kansas, 1979.

If you have questions about lighting for the GE specialists, write to them at General Electric Company, Lamp Products Division, Nela Park, Cleveland, OH 44112.

## You Gotta Have A Gimmick

The folks who organize fund-raising projects seem to be playing a game of "one-up-manship" these days, as they try new and unusual devices to inspire the generosity of the public.

One such project, which has proven to be quite popular with Jaycees and other groups around the country, is "cow-plop roulette." The sponsoring organization arranges to place a cow in a roped-off area that has been divided into squares. The squares are sold, with Old Bessie determining the prize-winners.

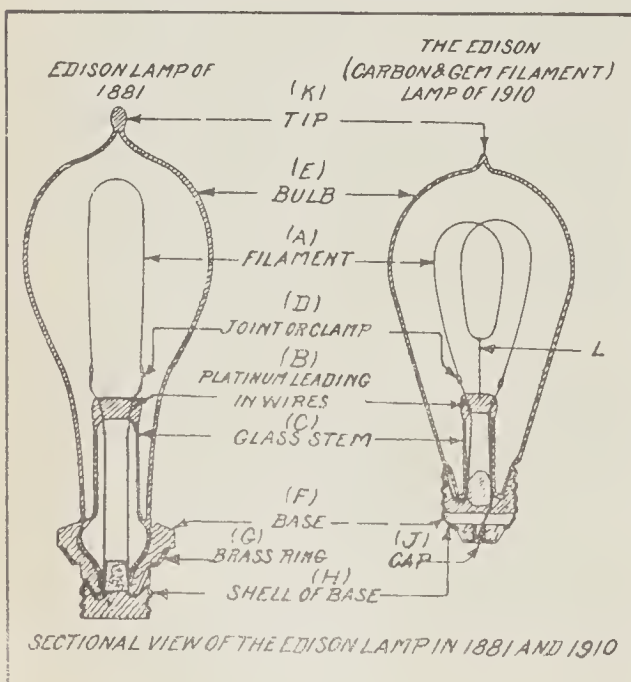
This "Bessie Bingo" game made headlines recently when the Maine State Police banned it, citing a state law prohibiting the use of live animals as a "fund-raising device."

State Police Sgt. Bruce Rafnell conceded that the game "probably doesn't hurt the cows any," but said it is "exploitative." He added: "They are using the animals in a manner other than what they were designed for."

Another fund-raising gimmick that made the news recently was a contest offering prizes for the individual who stuffed his face with the most lima beans.

The contest was part of the third annual Lima Bean Festival in West Cape May, NJ, which was raising money to preserve farmland in New Jersey, one of the East Coast's top producers of fordhook lima beans.

Ron Collins took the top prize, cramming 598 lima beans in his mouth in a mere 10 minutes. The Associated Press reported: "It wasn't a pretty sight."





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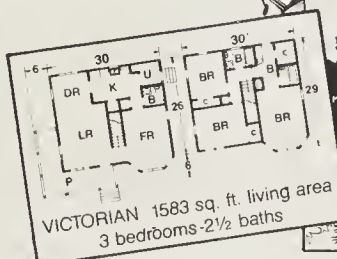
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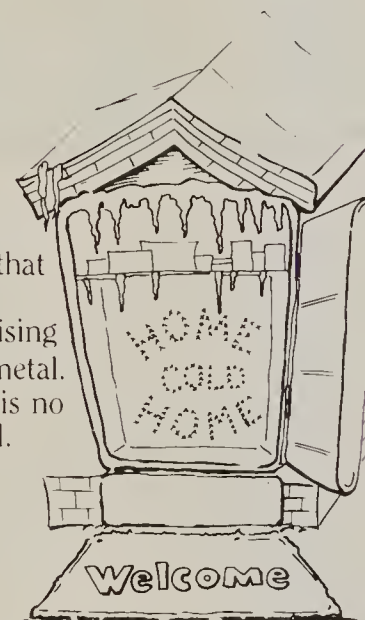
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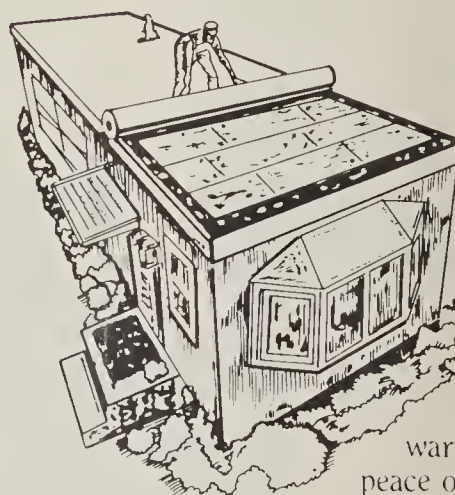
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